

A NAME CHANGE IN PSEUDOCONYZA (COMPOSITAE - INULEAE)

W.G. D'Arcy

Missouri Botanical Garden

Pseudoconyzia viscosa (Mill.) D'Arcy, comb. nov.

Conyza viscosa Mill., Gard. Dict. ed. 8. 1768. Type: Veracruz, Houston (BM, not seen).

Conyza lyrata var. pilosa Fern., Proc. Amer. Acad. 36: 506. 1901.

Type: Chiapas, Seler 1879 (GH, not seen).

Pseudoconyzia viscosa var. lyrata (H.B.K.) D'Arcy, stat. nov.

Conyza lyrata H.B.K., Nov. Gen. 4: 70. 1820. Type: Guayaquil, Humboldt & Bonpland (P, not seen).

Eschenbachia lyrata (H.B.K.) Britt. & Millsp., Fl. Baham. 444. 1920.

Blumea lyrata (H.B.K.) Badillo, Bol. Soc. Venez. Cienc. Nat. 10: 257. 1946.

Ernstia lyrata (H.B.K.) genus ined., Badillo, loc. cit. 1947

Pseudoconyzia lyrata (H.B.K.) Cuatrec., Ciencia (Mex.) 21: 31. 1961.

Following an examination of type material in London and Paris, McVaugh (Rhodora 74: 500. 1972) noted that Conyza lyrata is a later name for C. viscosa but that the two names refer to taxa which have been considered as distinct varieties by some botanists. Thus var. viscosa refers to pale-pilose plants, less glandular than those of var. lyrata.

From the synonymy cited above it is clear that this species has perplexed botanists as to its systematic position. Although the flowers superficially resemble those of Conyza and Erigeron, the broad, dentate, glandular leaves with somewhat clasping leaf bases are anomalous in these two genera. A number of technical details of the flowers, particularly the plump, many-veined seeds, tailed anthers, pubescence along the entire dorsal surface of the style branches and absence of deltoid appendages separate this species from the Astereae and place it in the Inuleae. The illustration appearing with the protologue of Pseudoconyzia Cuatr. (loc. cit.) errs in not showing the tails of the anthers.

The relationships of this genus are with Old World genera of Inuleae such as Blumea and Laggera rather than with genera in the neotropics where Pseudoconyzia viscosa occurs. These Old World genera are in need of revision. Consideration of the appropriate type species (Blumea balsamifera (L.) DC; Laggera purpurascens Sch.-Bip. ex K.H. E. Koch) argues that Pseudoconyzia is generically distinct, but when these groups are studied and the generic lines clarified, it is likely that a number of African species will be found to be congeneric with Pseudoconyzia, e.g. Blumea aurita DC; Laggera kotschyi Sch.-Bip., etc.